

Attorney Docket No. 1417B P 316 (DDR 5455)

1744
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re U.S. Utility Patent Application of:)
Arnold C. BILSTAD, et al.)
Serial No. 09/294,964)
Filed: April 20, 1999)
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR)
MANIPULATING PRE-STERILIZED)
COMPONENTS IN AN ACTIVE)
STERILE FIELD)

Examiner: I. Soubra

Art Unit: 1744

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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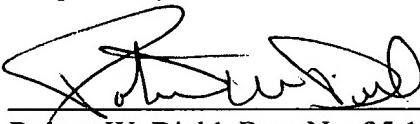
**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BEFORE
MAILING OF EITHER A FINAL ACTION OR
NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c))**

Applicant submits herewith Form PTO-1449 and a copy of the reference listed thereon.

This Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the mailing date of the First Office Action on the merits but before the mailing date of a Final Action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311, whichever occurs first.

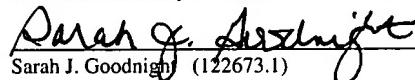
The undersigned certifies that the Applicants became aware of the enclosed reference (U.S. Patent No. 6,191,424, issued February 20, 2001) not more than three (3) months prior to the filing of this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement. Therefore, no fee is enclosed. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any fees to Deposit Account No. 23-0280. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed for that purpose.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: May 17, 2001
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING
I hereby certify that this document is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on May 17, 2001.


Sarah J. Goodnight (122673.1)